(i) Reduce the excise duty on all pharmaceutical products from 16 to 8 per cent;

(ii) Enhance the exemption limit of small scale units from the present Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 5 crores.

Small scale medicine manufacturing units

†318. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that small scale units manufacture medicines in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of such units functioning in the small scale sector in each State of the country;

(c) the value of medicine manufactured by these units on an everage annually; and

(d) the percentage of value of such medicines out of the value of total medicines produced?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Industry sources roughly estimate the number of small scale pharmaceutical units in the country to be around 8000. The registration of SSI units and issue of licences for manufacture of medicines is done by the State Governments concerned.

(c) The turnover of small scale drug/formulation manufacturers is estimated to be around Rs. 7000/- crores.

(d) Industry sources indicate a share of 29% from the small scale pharma sector out of total production of the medicines in the country.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.